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distance. The wells have been dug to a depth of from 25 to 30 yards in order to obtain a bountiful supply, but on account of the prolonged dry season this year a good many have become dry, and the water supply is at present very scanty for all ordinary purposes.

The wells are covered and the water is generally drawn by pumps and collected in barrels, which are protected by wooden lids and wire netting. Every barrel is provided with a spigot near its bottom in order to do away with the necessity of taking off its cover when the water is used, thus preventing also the access of mosquitoes. No larvæ were found in any of the water containers which were examined, and I was informed that hardly any mosquitoes were noticed throughout the towns. The system of cesspools is almost exclusively in use, and solutions of sulphate of iron and chloride of lime are the chief agents for their disinfection. These towns are now kept clean by daily carrying away the sweepings and garbage to a dumping ground outside of the city limits, where these are piled and burned.

Most of these towns are composed of wooden houses, having at the rear large yards planted with fruit trees. These yards were formerly divided by hedges of cardon (a species of cactus plant). Some of the fences were over a century old, and had grown to a considerable height and breadth, and furnished the dumping ground for all the ordinary refuse from the dwellings before the present sanitary service was established. After a careful investigation it was noted that the majority of the breeding places of mosquitoes were to be found in empty cans, broken glasses, bottles, etc., lying generally out of sight within the fences. Almost all of these fences have already been cleared away and wooden ones are being built in their places, giving the towns a better appearance and greatly improving their sanitary condition by doing away with so many mosquito-breeding places.

Formerly malarial fever in all its forms was prevalent in these towns throughout the year, while at present, and since the sanitary service has been in operation, it is very rarely present. With the exception of a few cases of enteritis in children no disease is now prevailing at those places, and their sanitary condition is excellent.

Part of the sanitary brigade makes a weekly inspection of the sugar plantations and farmhouses in the surrounding country in order to enforce the same sanitary measures as in town.

Since the beginning of December, 1907, no new cases of yellow fever have been reported in these rural districts.

Reports from Santiago—Yellow fever case officially confirmed.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Wilson reports:

May 2.—A case at Santiago under observation since April 25 was confirmed officially as yellow fever yesterday.

Inspection of vessels.

April 21.—Week ended April 18. Bills of health issued to 6 vessels bound for the United States and its dependencies. No vessel fumigated.

No quarantinable disease reported.